under the provisions of the Indian Medical Council Act, 1956, from the Secretary, Thriumuruga Kirupananda Variyar Thavathiru Sundara Swamigal Medical Educational and Charitable Trust, Salem on 13-9-1995 for establishment of a new medical college in the name of Vinayaka Mission's Kirupananda Variyar Medical College at Salem. The Government, on the recommendations of the Medical Council of India, accorded permission for the establishment of above college on 4-3-1996 from the academic year 1995-96.

Supply of medicines for four months at one time to chronic CGHS patients

2517. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended that the CGHS beneficiary chronic patients, suffering from diseases like diabetes, high blood pressure, heart trouble, etc., ought to be issued the prescribed medicines for months at one time;

(b) whether Government are implementing/purpose to implement this recommendation in the interest of both the beneficiaries as well as the CGHS dispensary staff, particularly in Delhi; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) to (c) The Fifth Central Pay Commission has recommended that the CGHS should supply medicines for atleast 3 months at a time to patients suffering from chronic disease. This recommendation is under consideration of Government.

Amendment of the prevention of food adulteration Act

2518. SHRI O. P. KOHLI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Prevention of Food Adulteration Act has been amended suitably to provide for exemplary punishment to the violators of the Act, keeping in view the rampant adulteration in milk and eatables; and

(b) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) The Prevention of Food Adulteration Act 1954 has been amended three times in the past in order to plug the loopholes observed from time to time. The existing penal provisions contained in the said Act include imprisonment for life with a minimum fine of rupees five thousand depending upon the gravity of the offence. The Prevention of Food Adulteration Rules, 1955 already prohibit sale of milk or milk products containing extraneous/foreign substance. The Food Health Authorities of States/UTs have been asked to keep a vigil on quality of milk and eatables.

(b) Does not arise.

Reservation policy for SCs/STs in Dr. R. P. Unit of AIIMS

2519. SHRI MD. SALIM: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether reservation policy for SCs/STs has been followed in Dr. R. P. Unit of AIIMS, New Delhi for the post of Senior Residents on *ad-hoc* basis from July, 1994 to June, 1997; if so, the details thereof and if not, the reasons therefor;

(b) how many SC/ST candidates have secured more marks than general category candidates in written tests and have been pushed back in the interview;

(c) whether Government have received any complaint in this regard; and

(d) if so, what action has been taken/is proposed to be taken by Government against the guilty officials and to check

backlog of SCs/STs in Dr. R. P. Centre in particular and, AIIMS in general?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) No regular appointments to the post of Sr. Resident Doctors are being made in the Institute from July/September, 1994 onwards due to stay orders of the High Court of Delhi on reservation issue. In R.P. Centre of AIIMS, 26 Sr. Resident Doctors have been appointed on *ad-hoc* basis from July, 1994 till date, out of which 7 candidate belong to reserved categories. At present, *ad-hoc* appointments are being made with 22.5 per cent reservation for SC/ST candidates.

(b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha.

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) Details regarding backlog of SCs/STs have been called for from the Institute.

Mantra therapy for treatment of incurable diseases

2520. SHRI GYAN RANJAN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the Mantra Therapy being practised by Tapaswi Janak Sahi in New Delhi, for Members of Parliament, for curing incurable diseases;

(b) if so, what is the number of MPs who have not the treatment and with what results;

(c) whether Government have recognised this ancient heritage; if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether any research has been conducted in this therapy; if so, the results thereof and if not, the reasons therefor; and

(e) whether Government have taken/propose to take any steps to preserve and propagate this ancient and valuable therapy in the world; if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI RENUKA CHOWDHURY): (a) and (b) There have been news items on Mantra Therapy. According to which Members of Parliament have been treated with this thedapy. However, the Government have no data about the number of Members of Parliament benefitted by the Ministry.

(c) to (e) Even though mantra therapy finds a mention in our authoritative classical texts, there are no scientific reports/clinical trails on the basis of which its therapeutic efficacy can be substantiated. The work of conducting research vests in the central council for research in Ayurveda and Siddha & Central Council for Research in Yoga & Naturopathy. These councils initiate research projects on the recommendations of their respective scientific advisory committees. Research on the subject could not be taken up primary because it did not figure in the priority laid down by the councils at present.

गांवों और शहरी गंदी बस्तियों में मुफ्त चिकित्सा सुविधाएं

2521. श्री इकबाल सिंह : क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) देश के गांवों तथा घनी आबादी वाली शहरी गंदी बस्तियों की जनता के लिए मुफ्त चिकित्सा सुविधाएं देने तथा उनका विस्तार करने के संबंध में सरकार की नीति क्या है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि केन्द्रीय चिकित्सालयों द्वारा विभिन्न बीमारियों से पीड़ित गरीब व्यक्तियों के इलाज हेतु उनसे कुछ शुल्क लिया जाता है ; और